



## **DEEPWATER HORIZON RESPONSE AND RECOVERY WORKGROUPS**

### **ACTIVITIES BY WEEK**

**JULY 26 – 30, 2010**

#### **Workgroup 1 – Response to current disaster and preparation for future disasters**

- a. Review federal law and protocol pertaining to the National Contingency Plan and oil spill response.
- b. Review Florida law and protocol pertaining to oil spill response and Florida's oil spill response plan.
- c. Review the relationships and coordination between federal, state, and local governments when responding to an oil spill.
- d. Review the National Response Framework, its relationship with the national Contingency Plan, and possible changes to address future oil spills.
- e. Submit a briefing paper on state and federal oil response laws and protocol to the Members of the workgroup at the beginning of Week 2.

#### ***Summary of Week 1 Activities:***

Staff researched federal laws and regulations authorizing a framework or system of emergency response protocols that requires the cooperation of federal agencies, as well as state, and local governments, to develop contingency plans that are designed to efficiently address manmade and natural disasters. Staff researched state law and regulations that authorize state agencies to develop or integrate federally-sponsored contingency plans for regional and/or local response to incidents. Finally, staff invited representatives from the Department of Environmental Protection, the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the Department of Emergency Management, and representatives for the League of Cities and the Association of Counties, to participate in three separate teleconferences scheduled for Week 2.

#### **Workgroup 2 - Assess programs and resources to meet immediate needs of impacted areas**

- a. Review Federal, state and local response programs and resources deployed. Begin collating Federal, state and local funds and programs targeted for Florida.
- b. Contact Federal, state and local administrators and establish timing and parameters of future conference calls to begin evaluating the response.
- c. Contact impacted businesses and individuals and establish timing and parameters of future conference calls or in-person meetings to discuss the response.

- d. Ensure state agency tracking of oil spill related expenses from current appropriations is occurring.

***Summary of Week 1 Activities:***

- Made contact with various Federal and State officials and sent Workgroup questionnaire as appropriate.
- Began coordination of conference calls.
- Reviewed agency appropriations and tracking of oil spill expenditures.
- Publicly noticed and held conference call with Workgroup 2 members Thursday, July 29 at 12:30pm: introduced members and staff; discussed Workgroup tasks, work plan, and member assignments, discussed conference call procedures and future activity.

**Workgroup 3 - Review the scope of private sector damages and processes for compensation**

- a. Review Federal Oil Pollution Act to determine what private sector damages are compensable and the processes for claims.
- b. Review State Pollutant Discharge Prevention and Control Act to determine what private sector damages are compensable and the processes for claims.
- c. Identify resources and contacts for assistance; compile contact information.
- d. Identify other government groups and task forces created in response to the recovery act; compile contact information.
- e. Submit a briefing paper on the federal and state acts to the Members of the workgroup at the beginning of Week 2.

***Summary of Week 1 Activities:***

The members of the group were provided with links to the state and federal laws, as well as a list of other national and state task forces relating to the oil spill. In addition, a briefing paper was prepared and distributed to the workgroup members. A copy of the documents may be found on the [workgroup's resource page](#).

**Workgroup 4 - Develop strategies for public sector recovery of damages**

- a. Develop an understanding of federal and state law applicable to compensation claims by governments.
- b. Identify current state and local governments' data collection efforts.

***Summary of Week 1 Activities:***

The Workgroup's staff prepared summaries of federal and state law applicable to governmental claims. The staff also reviewed existing state data collection efforts. A copy of the documents may be found on the [workgroup's resource page](#).

**Workgroup 5 - Identify regional long-term economic recovery opportunities**

- a. Identify County Demographic Data, including:
  - Population

- Education level
  - Wage & Income
  - Unemployment
  - Broadband Availability
  - Housing
  - Local Sales Tax
  - Industry Trends, including major industries
  - Employment Trends
- b. Contact key economic development groups to obtain information and strategies for long-term economic recovery, including Enterprise Florida, Florida's Great Northwest, Opportunity Florida, Workforce Florida, local chambers, and others.
  - c. Identify and research long-term economic recovery options that are being identified by other Deepwater Horizon working groups.

***Summary of Week 1 Activities:***

- Gathered and charted county demographic data from the Office of Economic & Demographic Research and Enterprise Florida, Inc.
- Began coordination of conference calls and upcoming round table meetings.
- Met with Enterprise Florida, Inc. and Workforce Florida, Inc. to discuss regional economic advantages and recovery.
- Made contact or called the following entities to discuss regional economic recovery and the work plan, and to gather useful resources: Florida's Great Northwest, Opportunity Florida, Pensacola Chamber of Commerce, Gulf Chamber of Commerce, Okaloosa Chamber of Commerce, Walton Chamber of Commerce, Santa Rosa Chamber of Commerce, Navarre Chamber of Commerce, Perdido Key Chamber of Commerce, Bay Chamber of Commerce, and the West Florida Regional Planning Council.
- Provided a document, *Workforce Development In Northwest Florida*, by Florida's Great Northwest to the workgroup.
- A copy of the documents may be found on the [workgroup's resource page](#).

**Workgroup 6 - Examine adequacy of criminal and civil penalties to address offenses causing or arising out of environmental disasters**

- a. Research existing state and federal environmental disaster laws that impose criminal and civil penalties.
- b. Consult with the following regarding the adequacy of Florida's environmental disaster laws that impose criminal and civil penalties: Attorney General / Office of Statewide Prosecution staff, state attorneys, executive agency personnel, local government officials, Water Management District personnel, other stakeholders.
- c. Compile and distribute an informational packet to workgroup members that contains an overview of the existing state and federal environmental disaster laws that impose criminal and civil penalties.

***Summary of Week 1 Activities:***

Consulted with the following entities:

- Attorney General's Office, regarding expanding the jurisdiction of the Office of Statewide Prosecution to include environmental crimes.
- Florida Department of Environmental Protection, regarding Florida's current criminal environmental disaster offenses.
- Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission, regarding Florida's current criminal environmental disaster offenses and the enforcement of such offenses.
- Gary Winston, Assistant State Attorney – 11<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, regarding Florida's current criminal environmental disaster offenses and how they are prosecuted.
- State Attorney's Office – 1<sup>st</sup> Judicial Circuit, regarding Florida's current criminal environmental disaster offenses and the August 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- Senate Criminal Justice Committee staff, regarding state and federal criminal environmental disaster offenses.
- Northwest Florida Wastewater Management District, regarding the August 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- Florida Association of Counties, regarding August 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Staff also compiled and distributed an informational packet to workgroup members containing an overview of the existing state and federal environmental disaster laws that impose criminal and civil penalties. The information may be found on the [workgroup's resource page](#).